

REMARKS

New independent claims 11-13 are added by the present amendment, directed to further features of novelty of the present invention.

In the Official Action of August 31, 2006, claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Lisec, U.S. Patent No. 4,369,084. That rejection is respectfully traversed, for the following reasons.

The independent claim 1 differs from Lisec '084 in a number of respects, including the following:

The Official Action contends that Lisec '084 has three seals 11, two aligned essentially vertically and one associated with the top horizontal edge of the plates, citing to column 1, lines 28-32.

However, Lisec '084 discloses only two seals 11, as is confirmed by reference to column 1, lines 64-66. The sealing elements associated with the top horizontal edge of the plates in Lisec '084 are the webs 13 and bar 15 (see column 2, lines 10-13 of Lisec '084). Those latter sealing elements do not respond to the recitations of claim 1 as to the claimed seal 20.

Furthermore, claim 1 requires that the seal 20 be "aligned essentially vertically," which is plainly not the case for the sealing elements 13, 15 of Lisec '084, and which recitation is not addressed in the Official Action of August 31, 2006.

The dependent claims 2-10 are not anticipated for the reasons given above in connection with claim 1, without waiver of additional reasons for the independent patentability of those claims. For example, claim 2 calls for a groove that runs essentially vertically, a feature not appearing in connection with the sealing elements 13, 15 of Lisec '084. Indeed, while the Official Action of August 31, 2006 applies the anticipation rejection to all of claims 1-10, it is not seen wherein the dependent claims are addressed.

From the above discussion, it is believed to be apparent that the rejection of claims 1-10 for anticipation as set forth in the Official Action of August 31, 2006 should be withdrawn.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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